

FARMLAND PRESERVATION CREDIT PROGRAM
AND FARMLAND TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Approximately \$29.1 million in direct benefits was distributed to Wisconsin farmers in 2001 through the Farmland Preservation Credit Program and the Farmland Tax Relief Credit Program.

About 21,400 farmers claimed Farmland Preservation Credits amounting to \$17.2 million, and 58,400 farmers received Farmland Tax Relief Credits totaling \$11.9 million. The credits are paid through the state income tax or as a cash refund if the credit exceeds income tax due. The Farmland Preservation Credit and the Farmland Tax Relief Credit may not exceed 95% of the property taxes accrued on the farm.

The goals of the Farmland Preservation Credit Program are twofold: to preserve Wisconsin farmland by means of local land use planning and soil conservation practices and to provide property tax relief to farmland owners. To qualify for the credit, farmland must be 35 acres or more and zoned for exclusive agricultural use or be subject to a preservation agreement between the farmland owner and the state. About 78% of the claims are for land under zoning and 22% are for land covered by agreements. In addition, participants must comply with soil and water conservation standards set by the state Land Conservation Board.

Farmland Preservation Credits averaged \$806 per claimant, equal to 22% of claimants' average property tax bills. Approximately 37% of farm owners with 35 acres or more claimed Farmland Preservation Credits in 2001.

Table 1 shows statistics on participation in the program by county. The largest total credit payments were in Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Iowa, and Rock counties.

The Farmland Tax Relief Credit Program provides direct benefits to all farmland owners with 35 or more acres. The credit is computed as a percentage of the first \$10,000 of property taxes up to a maximum credit of \$1,500. The Department of Revenue annually determines the percentage that is used to calculate the amount of a claim based on the estimated number of claims and the amount appropriated for the credit. The 2001 credit equaled 11% of the first \$10,000 of 2000 property taxes on farmland and averaged \$208. The 2002 credit will equal 13% of the first \$10,000 of 2001 property taxes. Table 2 shows statistics on participation in the Farmland Tax Relief Program by county.

Data in both tables are shown for the county in which the claimant lives, which may not be the same as the county in which the farmland is located.

TABLE 1
FARMLAND PRESERVATION CREDIT BY COUNTY, 2001
 (2000 Property Tax Year)

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	AVERAGE CREDIT	PARTICIPATION RATE (1)	COUNTY	NUMBER OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	AVERAGE CREDIT	PARTICIPATION RATE (1)
ADAMS	34	\$30,626	\$901	14.3%	MARINETTE	21	\$11,412	\$543	5.8%
ASHLAND	16	11,717	732	23.5%	MARQUETTE	38	37,175	978	13.3%
BARRON	420	369,865	881	39.6%	MILWAUKEE	25	6,110	244	17.0%
BAYFIELD	42	38,680	921	27.6%	MONROE	96	88,482	922	8.9%
BROWN	800	504,390	630	69.0%	OCONTO	27	17,010	630	3.5%
BUFFALO	218	236,159	1,083	25.8%	ONEIDA	D	D	D	D
BURNETT	28	31,982	1,142	15.5%	OUTAGAMIE	375	227,787	607	30.1%
CALUMET	298	190,373	639	35.2%	OZAUKEE	188	124,169	660	54.2%
CHIPPEWA	91	50,863	559	7.1%	PEPIN	112	90,409	807	27.0%
CLARK	95	78,481	826	5.8%	PIERCE	189	169,775	898	20.4%
COLUMBIA	888	735,144	828	63.6%	POLK	101	63,060	624	12.3%
CRAWFORD	177	186,121	1,052	25.5%	PORTAGE	122	104,725	858	16.6%
DANE	1,789	1,160,516	649	62.8%	PRICE	22	17,789	809	14.6%
DODGE	860	757,570	881	42.6%	RACINE	44	21,238	483	9.8%
DOOR	79	29,153	369	16.5%	RICHLAND	519	535,092	1,031	67.5%
DOUGLAS	D	D	D	D	ROCK	946	728,529	770	70.5%
DUNN	206	198,226	962	18.0%	RUSK	51	45,188	886	13.3%
EAU CLAIRE	246	233,475	949	31.6%	ST. CROIX	342	220,445	645	34.2%
FLORENCE	D	D	D	D	SAUK	578	525,036	908	43.9%
FOND DU LAC	1,250	934,747	748	74.2%	SAWYER	8	10,860	1,358	11.0%
FOREST	D	D	D	D	SHAWANO	403	330,055	819	31.8%
GRANT	753	573,335	761	36.5%	SHEBOYGAN	710	479,951	676	69.7%
GREEN	213	160,543	754	18.0%	TAYLOR	44	42,143	958	6.9%
GREEN LAKE	268	217,275	811	47.3%	TREMPEALEAU	339	286,545	845	27.8%
IOWA	1,004	1,053,329	1,049	85.6%	VERNON	304	308,923	1,016	23.8%
IRON	D	D	D	D	VILAS	D	D	D	D
JACKSON	46	44,489	967	8.6%	WALWORTH	534	378,907	710	64.6%
JEFFERSON	949	715,081	754	75.0%	WASHBURN	10	5,451	545	6.6%
JUNEAU	56	63,882	1,141	11.3%	WASHINGTON	146	110,158	755	18.6%
KENOSHA	30	19,475	649	11.2%	WAUKESHA	112	61,397	548	26.2%
KEWAUNEE	678	461,047	680	77.7%	WAUPACA	111	89,107	803	12.2%
LA CROSSE	290	293,485	1,012	50.1%	WAUSHARA	43	44,738	1,040	10.1%
LAFAYETTE	548	603,437	1,101	49.6%	WINNEBAGO	179	123,938	692	24.1%
LANGLADE	231	169,275	733	64.3%	WOOD	46	31,351	682	5.5%
LINCOLN	16	14,253	891	6.3%	OTHER (2)	232	418,773	1,805	- - -
MANITOWOC	865	627,321	725	65.0%	Total Individuals	20,918	16,883,421	\$807	37.1%
MARATHON	400	322,153	805	19.2%	Total Corporations	444	\$327,778	\$738	44.3%
					Total (Indiv. + Corp.)	21,362	\$17,211,199	\$806	37.2%

NOTES:

Data on number of claims and credit amount for individuals are from tax returns processed between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000. Data on number and amount of corporate credits are from taxes returns processed between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. The data are based on county of claimant, which may not be the same as the county in which the farmland is located.

(D) Data for counties with 5 or fewer claimants are not disclosed; however, data for these counties are included in the state totals.

(1) Estimated participation rate is the number of Farmland Preservation Credit claimants in the county as a percentage of the number of Farmland Tax Relief claimants in the county as shown in Table 2.

(2) Includes credits on returns for which no county is specified and out-of-state returns.

TABLE 2
FARMLAND TAX RELIEF CREDIT BY COUNTY, 2001

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	AVERAGE CREDIT	COUNTY	NUMBER OF CLAIMS	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	AVERAGE CREDIT
ADAMS	238	\$70,721	\$297	MARINETTE	364	\$59,985	\$165
ASHLAND	68	12,039	177	MARQUETTE	285	70,035	246
BARRON	1,061	164,732	155	MILWAUKEE	147	27,235	185
BAYFIELD	152	30,018	197	MONROE	1,080	236,329	219
BROWN	1,159	172,582	149	OCONTO	780	109,983	141
BUFFALO	845	263,443	312	ONEIDA	30	8,849	295
BURNETT	181	27,875	154	OUTAGAMIE	1,245	196,781	158
CALUMET	846	136,251	161	OZAUKEE	347	62,988	182
CHIPPEWA	1,281	203,988	159	PEPIN	415	98,671	238
CLARK	1,637	272,672	167	PIERCE	927	211,167	228
COLUMBIA	1,396	312,419	224	POLK	822	139,714	170
CRAWFORD	693	154,175	222	PORTAGE	735	169,760	231
DANE	2,849	616,098	216	PRICE	151	23,963	159
DODGE	2,017	435,803	216	RACINE	450	103,998	231
DOOR	480	62,806	131	RICHLAND	769	185,037	241
DOUGLAS	60	5,690	95	ROCK	1,341	336,103	251
DUNN	1,145	276,098	241	RUSK	384	55,934	146
EAU CLAIRE	778	137,090	176	ST. CROIX	1,000	204,085	204
FLORENCE	26	5,060	195	SAUK	1,318	277,270	210
FOND DU LAC	1,685	299,231	178	SAWYER	73	16,993	233
FOREST	39	5,784	148	SHAWANO	1,268	211,706	167
GRANT	2,061	470,154	228	SHEBOYGAN	1,018	154,296	152
GREEN	1,182	287,458	243	TAYLOR	641	103,333	161
GREEN LAKE	567	122,647	216	TREMPEALEAU	1,219	279,294	229
IOWA	1,173	314,891	268	VERNON	1,277	249,141	195
IRON	13	2,240	172	VILAS	22	7,205	328
JACKSON	537	147,107	274	WALWORTH	826	209,463	254
JEFFERSON	1,265	217,309	172	WASHBURN	152	29,314	193
JUNEAU	497	114,808	231	WASHINGTON	786	146,115	186
KENOSHA	269	66,651	248	WAUKESHA	427	89,908	211
KEWAUNEE	873	128,203	147	WAUPACA	909	169,394	186
LA CROSSE	579	140,335	242	WAUSHARA	424	102,736	242
LAFAYETTE	1,105	334,896	303	WINNEBAGO	744	140,554	189
LANGLADE	359	78,373	218	WOOD	834	169,745	204
LINCOLN	252	48,983	194	MENOMINEE	0	0	0
MANITOWOC	1,331	219,155	165	OTHER*	438	101,080	231
MARATHON	2,079	341,222	164				
				Total Individuals	56,426	11,457,210	\$203
				Total Corporations	1,003	\$479,463	\$478
				Total (Indiv. + Corp.)	57,429	\$11,936,673	\$208

NOTES:

Data on number of claims and credit amount for individuals are from tax returns processed between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2000.

Data on the number and amount of corporate credits are from tax returns processed between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000.

The data are based on county of claimant, which may not be the same as the county in which the farmland is located.

* Includes credits on returns for which no county is specified and out of state returns.

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